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DEC 11 2000

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December 8, 2000

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Subject: Section 68.4 of the Commission's Rules
Hearing Compatible Telephones

) RM-8658

Dear Secretary:

Apparently I am not computer literate enough to file electronically so am enclosing response to Wireless Action Coalition's (WAC) request to reopen Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to reopen the Petition for Rule Making in the Matter of Hearing Aid Compatible Telephones.

I know it will be past the deadline but am hoping that my name can be added to other Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH) who have made a similar request.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Virginia L. Carr

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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Subject: Section 68.4 of the Commission's Rules
Hearing Aid Compatibility) RM 8658

As an adult with a 70 db hearing loss who wears two behind the ear hearing aids with telecoil, I am responding to Wireless Action Coalition's (WAC) request that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reopen the Petition for Rule Making in the matter of Section 68.4(a) of the FCC's Rules, Hearing Aid Compatible Telephones.

According to the HAC Act wireline phones manufactured after 1989 have to be hearing aid compatible and those manufactured after January 2000 also have to incorporate a volume control. This means many people with hearing loss, with or without hearing aids can use most wireline phones manufactured after the effective date. People with telecoil equipped hearing aids can be assured that if they purchase a phone they will be able to inductively couple it to their aid. It also means they will be able to use phones in other people's homes, hotels, hospitals, workplaces, nursing homes and other places covered by law.

The problem with the above premise is that not all my friends have newer phones with hearing aid compatibility. Some businesses; i.e., hotels/motels are not in compliance.

Now wireless phones are competing with wireline phones in such a rapid pace the fear is hearing aid and cochlear implant users will be forced to rely on obsolete technology that is being phased out while the petition to reopen rule making is pending. My latest effort to use the telephone in a public place was in a restaurant. The telephone was a SONY wireless. Because I was unable to hear over it with my hearing aid with telecoil, the maitre d' had to conduct the conversation for me. Discouraging and frightening to realize that even in public I may have to live in isolation because of lack of hearing aid compatible communication devices.

Because hearing aid users are being denied access to personal communication devices (PCS) and alternative options, such as analog service are harder to find and more expensive than digital service, I strongly support the opening up of the petition to revoke the exemption for wireless telephones from the HAC Act.

Thank you for consideration of this issue of great importance to the hearing health, safety and well-being of the more than 26,000,000 hard of hearing persons in the United States.

Very truly yours,

Virginia L. Carr

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